

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
P.O. Box 103
Greenfield Center, NY 12833
(518) 893-0723
Fax: (518) 893-7006

The November 28, 2018 Commissioners Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at the District Office by Commissioner Scott Dussault at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Commissioners Dussault, King, Miller; D/A & Treasurer Petkus, D/P Ranck. Excused: Commissioner Chandler. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

1. Flag salute/moment of silence for departed members.
2. Special Presentation by Dave Meager regarding Cancer Gap Coverage options, highlights include:
 - Dave is the insurance agent for the fire district.
 - Represents all the carriers that offer coverage: ESIP, Hartford, Provident, VFIS.
 - Cancer coverage is what the law says, and VFIS is the lowest; \$137 per year per eligible firefighter, decreases to \$123 per year per firefighter who severs service for the 5 years the district is required to cover them.
 - It is not medical insurance.
 - Covers certain cancers as listed in the law. Does not cover lung cancer, as that is already covered under VFBL.
 - OFPC adopted regulations.
 - Only firefighters active on 1/1/2019 AND who have met eligibility requirements can be covered. Coverage is not retroactive.
 - VFIS application is only 1 page, they are only asking for the number of eligible firefighters once a year; those firefighters that join during the year will automatically be covered. If a claim is started, VFIS will accept attestations.
 - Recommends that if a firefighter has had prior service in another fire department, they should provide documentation to the district which may be acceptable toward the five years. Joyce noted she has already done that with two other firefighters and suggested the officers look at their member roster for prior service, and have them get documentation.
 - Firefighters must be active on 1/1/19, but they do not have to be interior as of that date; if they have 5 years prior active interior service, and meet eligibility requirements, they would qualify for benefits.
 - Gave overview of law and benefits.
 - The benefits fall under 3 categories: lump sum, monthly disability, and death benefits. Active eligible firefighters can receive benefits from all three categories, those who are no longer active are not eligible for the monthly disability benefit.
 - Benefits are excluded from NYS income tax.
 - If a firefighter who is covered leaves the fire district and joins another fire service, they are then required to pick up the firefighter's coverage.

- Chief Ellsworth asked if after the five years, can a firefighter continue the coverage by paying the premium; it was noted that there has been a rumor about that but nothing else. Dave noted the law is so new and nothing has been contested.
- A/C Barss questioned the 6 month waiting period for monthly disability benefits; Dave noted it is the way the law is written and Commissioner Miller added if you were to file social security disability benefits you have to wait 6 months, so it sounds pretty standard.
- The coverage must be in place by January 1.
- Joyce has the VFIS completed application for the Chairman to sign.

RESOLUTION #263 ACCEPTING THE CANCER GAP COVERAGE FROM VFIS FOR \$137 PER FIREFIGHTER PER YEAR AND \$123 FOR THE FIVE YEARS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019.

MOTION: Dussault

SECOND: King

RESOLVED to accept the Cancer Gap Coverage from VFIS for \$137 per firefighter per year and \$123 for the five years, effective January 1, 2019.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

The Board thanked Mr. Meager for his time. Mr. Meager thanked the volunteer firefighters/EMS noting they are the heroes of modern society.

3. Approve Minutes: November 14, 2018 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as written.

RESOLUTION #264 APPROVING THE NOVEMBER 14, 2018 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

MOTION: King

SECOND: Miller

RESOLVED to approve the November 14, 2018 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

4. Payment of Bills:

RESOLUTION #265 APPROVING PAYMENT OF ABSTRACT #22, VOUCHER #180575 THROUGH #180591 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, TOTALING \$24,406.61.

A3410.1	\$	5,026.96
A3410.2		7,896.72
A3410.4		11,094.32
A9000.8		388.61

Total:		\$24,406.61

MOTION: Dussault

SECOND: King

RESOLVED to approve payment of Abstract #22, Voucher #180575 through #180591 from the General Fund, totaling \$24,406.61.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #266 APPROVING PAYMENT OF ABSTRACT #5, VOUCHER #BR18006 THROUGH #BR18007 FROM THE BUILDING RESERVE FUND, TOTALING \$74.64.

MOTION: Dussault

SECOND: Miller

RESOLVED to approve payment of Abstract #5, Voucher #18006 through #BR18007 from the Building Reserve Fund, totaling \$74.64.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

5. Reports of the Staff

• **District Administrator – Joyce Petkus:**

- Read letter received from Clinton McGowan requesting to be placed on the Annual Election ballot for the remainder of the three year term beginning 1/1/2019 and ending 12/31/2021.
- Received a letter from Glens Falls Hospital that effective January 18, 2019 Center for Occupational Health will be closing their doors. The district will need to find another provider. Lengthy discussion continued. Joyce to start researching.

• **Purchasing – Don Ranck:**

- Annual jaws service should be completed tomorrow.
- Met with the DEC ranger to finalize the DEC grant.

• **Treasurer – Joyce Petkus:**

- She and Don have been meeting to go over the budget financials. Reviewed report given to Commissioners regarding her accounting of preliminary year end monies; she estimated there will be only about \$11,000 left when the Board closes the books at the December 26th meeting. Discussion continued.

6. Firefighter/Auxiliary Applications/Changes in Membership: None.

Co #4 has an out of district applicant, Sean Gomer; would like to proceed with application process. Board okayed.

7. Report of the Chief – Chief Ellsworth:

- All four companies participated in Toys for Tots this past Sunday.
- I Am Responding rep was here last week; lots of information given.
- Applicant reference forms have been coming in; if there are no red flags they will be going directly to Joyce to be placed in the personnel files; otherwise he will let the particular Deputy Chief know.
- Asked about the status of the masks; Don noted it will be a while, but has received confirmation that they are at Scott.
- A/C Bullard found a course, Introduction to Apparatus and Fleet Vehicle Evaluation and Planning; would like to try to get the course. Joyce noted it is a State Fire District Association sponsored course and she is working on it.

- Don sent a patch and business card to a retired firefighter in New Hampshire.
- Would like a blanket motion for all chief vehicles to go out of county for Corinth's Christmas party at Fort William Henry in Lake George on December 8th, as well as several others that will be coming up in January; Edinburg, Galway, Providence and Rock City are all also out of county. Joyce noted she would prefer to have all the details, including names, before the Board makes a resolution. The Chief will get her the details of the other events for the December 12th Commissioner meeting.

RESOLUTION #267 GIVING CHIEF ELLSWORTH PERMISSION TO TAKE CAR 26 TO ATTEND CORINTH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT FORT WILLIAM HENRY ON DECEMBER 8, 2018.

MOTION: Dussault

SECOND: King

RESOLVED to give Chief Ellsworth permission to take car 26 to attend Corinth's Christmas party at Fort William Henry on December 8, 2018.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Suggested at the beginning of next year, sit down and figure out responsibilities between Chiefs and Presidents and maybe create a cheat sheet. Lengthy discussion continued, it was noted that the President answers to the Board of Directors.
- Questioned LOSAP and active status points; his phone has been blowing up over this for the last week. Lengthy discussion continued; Chief Ellsworth also requested that someone make sure that November and December 2017 are also calculated in the active status reports. One of the Board members to speak to Deidre tomorrow. President Nate King suggested that next year all the Company Presidents meet on a regular basis. Brief discussion also regarding bonding the company treasurers and deputy treasurers.

8. Reports of the Companies:

- **Greenfield Center Co #1: D/C Chouinard**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Porter Corners Co #2: D/C Middlebrook.**
 - Argo needs to be serviced. Brief discussion continued; Argo to be taken to John's Argo for an estimate of service/repairs.
- **Middle Grove Co #3: D/C Petkus**
 - Progress.
- **Maple Avenue Co #4: D/C Bogardus**
 - Questioned if the property stakes have been completed? Commissioner Chandler is working on it, and he is away right now. President King left a message on Jason Tumel's cell phone but has not heard back.
 - A/C Bullard gave overview of quote submitted for additional lights on new 294; additional cost for lights is \$1,390.46 and \$500 for installation totaling \$1,890.46. Realized they were short of scene and compartment lighting, especially with the cap and not enough rear lighting. Emergency Vehicle Upfitters recommended additional lighting. Commissioner Dussault questioned if the wiring could be done now and the lighting at a later date;

A/C Bullard noted yes. D/C Bogardus noted he does not feel there is much of a choice, since the installer already identified that we do not have enough emergency lighting in the rear, and it has now become a safety factor. Commissioner King noted that the truck would have to stay parked until it is properly done. D/C Bogardus noted then it is a waste of a resource; Commissioner King noted that D/C Bogardus has said it is not safe to be operated so until all the lights are on the truck, the truck is not operated. Commissioner King asked D/C Bogardus if the truck is safe to operate or not? D/C Bogardus noted he did not know, the installer made the recommendation. Commissioner King asked D/C Bogardus what his recommendation is; it is going to be on him if someone gets hurt. D/C Bogardus noted the installer recommends more; Commissioner Miller questioned if the installer just recommends more, or says that it doesn't pass State requirements; these are want-to-haves because not enough lights were put on in the first place, and asked if this could wait until February and do it all then? President Nate King noted that the truck is already apart being wired for the other lights and it would cost more to wire in February due to the labor hours. Chief Ellsworth asked how they are running regarding their budget; it was noted there never was a budget, but A/C Bullard estimated about \$60,000 and they are running just at that. Brief discussion continued. D/C Middlebrook suggested maybe taking the money from the Equipment Reserve Fund instead; Joyce noted that with the purchase of Co #2 new truck next year at close to \$760,000, it will reduce the Equipment Reserve to only \$200,000 - 250,000, and there is talk of purchasing a new Chief's vehicle at a cost of about \$70,000. Everyone needs to take into consideration that only \$225,000 - 250,000 annually into the Equipment Reserve Fund, and reminder that this fund is used to purchase not just trucks, but equipment as well. Commissioner Miller asked A/C Bullard if it can be wired now and wait for the lights. Commissioner King noted that if they have enough money at year end they can consider purchasing the lights at that time; A/C Bullard noted that was fair.

RESOLUTION #268 GIVING CO #4 PERMISSION TO HAVE NEW 294 WIRED FOR THE ADDITIONAL LIGHTING; THE LIGHTS WILL BE PURCHASED AT A LATER DATE.

MOTION: Miller

SECOND: King

RESOLVED to give Co #4 permission to have new 294 wired for the additional lighting; the lights will be purchased at a later date.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

9. Report of the District EMS Coordinator – Nate King:

- EMS recertification program changing from the required 76 hours total to 40 hours total beginning next year.
- Meeting with Don on December 7th to go over needed EMS supplies and restocking software program.

10. Report of the Training Committee – Derrick Barss

- 2019 training has been set, monies accrued and two potential trainings that may generate revenue. There is about \$5000 left for discretionary spending. Brief discussion continued.

11. Reports of the Commissioners:

- **Dussault**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **King**
 - Co #1 water tank install currently at a standstill.
- **Miller**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Chandler**
 - No present this evening.

12. Reports of the Town Board Liaisons:

- Commissioner Dussault noted that the Town of Wilton meeting is December 6th.

13. Reports of the Town Planning Board Liaisons:

- D/C Bogardus attended the last Town of Wilton meeting and noted Aldi's is once again moving forward.
- There may be some roundabouts installed at Jones Road and Route 50/Ingersoll Road area in our District, for the Jones Road Development of 304 houses; they are working with A/C Bullard in reference to turning radius's and an emergency truck path.
- Development planned next to Minogue's, but not until 2020.

14. District Policy Review:

- **Membership Application:** no changes made.
- **New Member Live Burn:** Commissioner King questioned A/C Barss regarding the changes to the Live Burn law; A/C Barss noted 1403 has changed, the curriculum is out and instructors authorized to teach it. Material is not out yet but as soon as it is, it will be delivered multiple times regionally. No changes made at this time.
- **New Member Orientation:** no changes made.

15. Special Topics of Discussion:

- One bid received for the tires from Brian Gibbins for \$51.23. Don to coordinate.

RESOLUTION #269 ACCEPTING THE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51.23 FROM BRIAN GIBBINS FOR THE SALE OF THE SURPLUS TIRES.

MOTION: Dussault

SECOND: King

RESOLVED to accept the bid in the amount of \$51.23 from Brian Gibbins for the sale of the surplus tires.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

16. Final Comments:

- None.

17. Dispense with the reading of the minutes

RESOLUTION #270 DISPENSING WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Miller

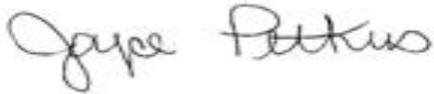
SECOND: King

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Dussault with a second from Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Petkus".

Joyce Petkus
District Administrator/Treasurer